



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: PURI et al.  
Serial Number: 09/235,120  
Filing Date: January 21, 1999  
Title:

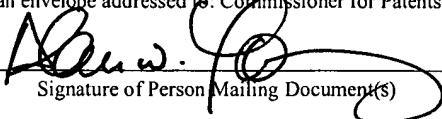
Art Unit No.: 2164  
Examiner: Bashore, A.  
Att'y Docket: ORCL5543

Methods And Systems Enabling  
The Identification Of Actual Costs In A Transaction  
Based Financial And Manufacturing Environment

Pre  
#8/a  
S. Collin  
2/25/02

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the within document(s) is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on February 14, 2002.

  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, kindly amend the present application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The first full paragraph of page 16 has been replaced with the following paragraph:

a1  
"With reference to Fig. 2, to obtain the actual cost of producing part B5, for example, it is only necessary to roll up the actual costs associated with all hierarchically lower-level parts associated with part B5. As shown in Fig. 2, the actual cost of producing item B5 may be obtained by accumulating the actual costs included or pointed to by the structures CSID<sub>B1</sub>, CSID<sub>B2</sub>, CSID<sub>B3</sub>, CSID<sub>B4</sub> and CSID<sub>B5</sub>. Indeed, by creating and assigning a new Cost Source ID at each stage of a business activity, the actual costs of carrying out the business activity may readily be ascertained at any operational stage. Other logical hierarchical structures suitable to organizing the Cost Source IDs according to the present invention and other structures are disclosed in the commonly assigned and co-pending U.S. patent application 09/234,964 entitled "Generic Hierarchical Data Structure

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